



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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VOL. XXII
No. 12

MAR. 20, 2000

CAMPAIGN 2000: WHY PROP. 26 NARROWLY LOST.

Editor's note: In the aftermath of Prop. 26's loss, there has been lots of finger pointing by supporters of this initiative to make it easier to pass local school bonds. Here is Calpeek's analysis and commentary. FYI: as of 3/14, NO had 51.3% vs. 48.7% for YES on 26...

...Finger pointing after a narrow loss never really accomplishes much – other than to anger the party being blamed. There were several reasons why Prop. 26 was defeated, but Gov. Gray Davis' help or lack of help was **not** one of them. Davis endorsed 26 early and YES on 26 could have used Davis or his name in a tv spot...

...Much has been made over the late response from Davis to a formal letter requesting help, written by the YES on 26 backers. The letter was sent Dec. 20th of '99 and according to George Skelton's column in the *L.A. Times*, supporters say they never got a response from this letter until election eve. Hello! Pick up the **phone** - call Davis directly or call Garry South, Davis' key political operative. Allies don't write formal letters – they meet in person or talk on the phone – and they don't wait around. In politics there's a thing called a *sense of urgency*...

...As for money, between CTA and the moguls of Silicon Valley, *Let's Fix Our Schools* had tons and Davis wasn't needed here. When everything is added up, YES on 26 will have spent about \$24 million vs. only about \$1 million for the NO side, led by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn....

...YES on 26 enjoyed early public support. An October '99 Field Poll showed YES at 59% vs. 39% for the opposition. But once the ballot label was released (and used in polling), the numbers began to slip. Early February polling showed YES 41% vs. NO 37%. Thus the ballot label – a short summary of 26, including the *fiscal impact* – takes part of the blame too. And give a little credit to the NO side, who ran an underfunded but savvy campaign...

...Presidential politics also contributed to 26's loss. In November, U.S. Sen. John McCain was hardly a blip in the polls

and pundits predicted Texas Gov. George W. Bush would be the GOP nominee in a ho hum primary. On the Demo side Bill Bradley was making a serious run at VP Al Gore. If there was a big Demo battle it would be *good news* for YES on 26. But the exact opposite happened and a huge conservative/GOP turnout was key factor in 26's defeat...

...Another key problem for the YES side was that they never came to grips with the "T" word – taxes. In this case, property taxes. When the HJTA raised the issue, YES on 26 did that old *duck & weave* job and never answered the question: if 26 is approved, will local property taxes go up? The answer was YES, if voters approved a local bond. In other words, YES on 26 never made a convincing case of why voters should raise their property taxes, which to homeowners is a regressive tax...

...And YES on 26 needed to do better in the L.A. area, but the Belmont Learning Center fiasco, combined with the fact that the \$2 billion BB bond measure hasn't lived up to its promises, made selling 26 a difficult task in L.A. This was something YES on 26 couldn't control...

...FYI: As for the initiative itself, should the backers have gone for a 60% (super majority), rather than a the 50% vote (simple majority)? Good question and the answer is YES. Stay tuned...

CALIF. PRIMARY: CALPEEK'S WINNERS & LOSERS.

Editor's note: It's time for one of your favorite columns: Calpeek's Winners & Losers. Many thanks to our sources who helped contribute to this year's Primary Election list. There is absolutely nothing objective about this column, so sit back, relax, laugh, cry or tear your hair out...

♦ *The Longest Night Award* – To the YES on 26 campaign (*Let's Fix Our Schools*). Sorry, but you can't blame Gov. Davis for this loss, not when you outspend your opponent by 20-to-1. Big loss for CTA and the *Silicon Valley* business execs who bankrolled YES on 26...

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◆ **Huge Win/Small Budget Award** – To the NO on 26 campaign, led by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn...

◆ **Best Bang for the Buck** – YES on 12/13 – parks and water bonds. Team included Steve Glazer; Larry Sheingold; The Primacy Group; Doak Carrier et al; Fairbank Maslin Maullin; and Burson Marsteller. Great L.A. tv exposure for Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa, who was a YES on 12/13 spokesperson. Both bonds won...

◆ **Best Overall Initiative Campaign** – YES on 22, the initiative to ban same sex marriage. Lead consultant Chuck Cavalier kept the YES side on message and the campaign itself never went overboard, despite some nasty comments from both the NO side and from YES on 22 supporters...

◆ **Badly Burned** – GOP Assembly Leader Scott Baugh saw most of his candidates get flamed – including Jim Righheimer, in Baugh's own 67th AD...

◆ **Mashed.com** – Former GOP Assembly Leader Rod Pacheco didn't do much better than Baugh. Rod's big loss: the 65th AD where Jan Leja – backed by State Sen. Jim Brulte and Assemblyman Brett Granlund – bashed Pacheco's deep pocketed candidate, Russ Bogh...

◆ **The Big Screw Up** – John McCain's flip-flop-flip on participating in the CNN/L.A. Times Calif. debate. The big "mo" was lost forever by McCain's mistake...

◆ **Primary Buffoon** – CA Sec. of State Bill Jones(R). The Bush Backstabber. Does he have any friends left in the CA Republican Party? Maybe a few, but not many...

◆ **New Political Acronym** – BJU. Get your mind out of the gutter. BJU is Bob Jones University...

◆ **A Perfect Night** – GOP consultant Wayne Johnson(5-0 in contested legislative primaries); Demo consultants Fred Register and Susan Burnside (2-0); GOP consultants Russo Marsh + Rogers (6-0); and Burson Marsteller (4-0 in state-wide ballot measures)...

◆ **Digital Salute Award** – To CRP Chair John McGraw, who OKed the deal to take \$50,000 from the YES on 26 campaign to keep the CA Republicans Party's NO on 26 position off the CRP slate. And then, under pressure from conservatives, McGraw returned the \$\$...

◆ **The Mandate Award** – To YES on 1-A. There never was much doubt that the compact to allow slots & 21 at Indian casinos would be OKed by voters. The YES vote was 64.6%. An easy win for Winner/Wagner & Mandabach...

◆ **Overkill Award** – To NO on 30/31. With \$60 million for the auto insurance firms vs. \$6 million for the CA trial lawyers, the outcome was never in doubt...

◆ **Endorsement W/Clout** – To the League of Women Voters(LWV) who went NO on Prop. 25 (the Unz-Miller campaign reform initiative)...

◆ **Most Disappointed Award** – To U.S. Rep. Jim Rogan (R-Glendale), who spent \$2.7 million and got 46.9% vs. State Sen. Adam Schiff(D-Burbank), who spent \$50,000 and got 49.03%...

◆ **Best Local Campaign** – To the YES on F campaign in Orange County. Lead consultant: Campaign Strategies; and Decision Research on polling. The anti-El Toro airport PR campaign (not the same as NO on F, but directly related) was run by Waters & Faubel...

◆ **Plop Plop, Fizz Fizz** – To Orange Co. GOP moderates (The New Majority PAC), which spent \$500,000 to elect more moderates to the Orange Co. GOP Central Cmt. The moderates started out with 11 members, but ended up with only 8 vs. 34 for the conservatives. Big loser: Assemblywoman Marilyn Brewer, who failed to win a spot on her own 70th AD. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: MORE PRIMARY ELECTION ANALYSIS

Editor's note: It may take a while, but Calpeek has lots of turf to cover in terms of post-primary analysis. And with some 705,738 A/V and provisional ballots yet to be counted, we'll have weekly updates through early April. Here's our first post-primary update...

☒ **Uncounted Ballots** – As of 3/14, there were 705,738 uncounted ballots (A/Vs and provisionals) statewide. The 58 counties have 30 days to make their final reports. L.A. Co. has about 50,000 uncounted, while Orange Co. has about 80-100,000 uncounted. But the bulk of uncounted ballots are mostly from the rural counties. At this point, sources don't expect any legislative primaries to change, but we'll keep an eye open – just in case...

☒ **Voter Turnout** – No changes from last week: 53%, with total raw numbers of voters at 7.3 million, but expected to go up to 7.8 million when all the AVs and provisions are finally counted. L.A. Co.'s turnout was 47.03%, Orange Co. was 50.5%, San Diego 52.4%, Santa Clara 52.7%, S.F. 44.1%, San Mateo 51.5%, Alameda 51%. The biggest % turnout was in Amador Co. with 72.3%. The lowest % turnout was in Stanislaus Co. with only 42.4%...

☒ **Legal Actions** – After-primary legal challenges now

number two. Lawyers representing NO on F (pro El Toro airport) in Orange Co. filed a lawsuit last week (violation of single subject rule and violation of the board's authority to rule on zoning issues). And sources say a lawsuit has been filed to stop implementation of Prop. 21 (juvenile crime initiative), which won with 62%. Cause of action here is said to be the long vs. short ballot labels used in different counties throughout Calif...

☒ ***GOP Uncivil War Continues*** – The battle between GOP hardliners and moderates intensified with this last primary, with GOP traditional conservatives sometimes caught in the middle. And while the most highly publicized battles were fought in Orange and San Diego Counties, the warfare between the two factions was statewide...

...If you look at the Kaloogian/Baldwin Liberty Caucus list of the "Dirty Dozen" primaries, hardliners(H) won 6, moderates(M) 4 and traditional conservatives(TC) 2. Here are the winners: **24th AD** – Jackson(M); **28th AD** – Denham(H); **34th AD** – Wyman(H); **38th AD** – Richman(M); **44th AD** – Carpenter-McMillan(H); **59th AD** – Mountjoy(H); **61st AD** – Yates(TC); **66th AD** – Hollingsworth(H); **67th AD** – Harman(M); **72nd AD** – Daucher(M); **74th AD** – Wyland(TC); and **77th AD** – La Suer(H)...

...The ADs marked in **bold** are Demo targeted districts. The **44th AD** is already in Demo hands and the **61st AD** was in Demo hands until Nell Soto won the **32nd SD** special. With the exception of the **24th AD**, GOP hardliners or traditional conservatives won primaries in these other ADs...

☒ ***Open Primary Brouhaha*** – While CA Demo Party officials don't like the Open Primary one bit, they are enjoying the agony that the CA Republican Party is suffering because of Prop. 198 – approved by voters in 1996. This law will be defended in the U.S. Supreme Court by Calif. AG Bill Lockyer(D) on April 24th...

...The measure itself was poorly drafted, which is why there was all the confusion about what counts in terms of voting for president. And the chief purpose of the drafters of 198 was to make it easier for moderate GOPers to defeat hardline conservatives in primaries by allowing independents and Demos to cross party lines...

...In Calif.'s Mar. 7th open primary, sources believe at least 2 moderate Republicans defeated hardliners in legislative primaries with help from cross-over voters: in the **67th AD** – John Harman beat Jim Righeimer; and in the **72nd AD** – Lynn Daucher beat Bruce Matthias. There is some talk that if the U.S. Supreme Court tosses 198, the CRP may file a

legal action to void the above races, if it can be proved that Righeimer and Matthias actually got more Republican votes than Harman and Daucher...

☒ ***The Legislature's Nightmare*** – It's Prop. 21. It won with 62% --- and only lost in 5 counties, all in the Bay Area. State Sen. Dede Alpert(D-San Diego) already has introduced a \$500 million bond measure to pay for new juvenile facilities. Sources say this bond will go on the November 2000 ballot. Remember the last juvenile bond measure for \$700 million (Prop. 205)? It was defeated in 1996 by a 40.6% to 59.4% margin. What happens if this one goes down too???

...In the meantime, sources say YES on 21 backers now admit there were some drafting errors in this juvenile crime initiative and it will be up the legislature to iron everything out. One key question is whether counties will be forced to hire new probation officers – and if so, who pays for it? When Gov. Pete Wilson drafted 21, he said no reimbursement from the State is required, but others disagree. One unintended consequence of 21: with more probation officers being hired, could they become the next big public employee union, with lots of political clout? Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: TALE OF TWO CITIES – SAN DIEGO AND SACRAMENTO VOTERS FACE MAYORS RUNOFF

Editor's note: Here's our first update on some of the key local races which took place Mar. 7th...

■ ***San Diego Mayor's Race*** – If now official: San Diego Co. Sup. Ron Roberts will face San Diego Sup. Court Judge Dick Murphy in the November runoff. All the AVs and provisionals are in and Murphy edged deep pocketed businessman Peter Q. Davis by 169 votes. Roberts led the field of 11 candidates with 68,672 or 25.72%. Murphy finished with 41,874 (15.68%), followed by Davis with 41,705 (15.62%). Councilwoman Barbara Warden got 40,512 (15.17%). For Davis, it must be very disappointing after spending a record \$1.25 million. Roberts raised about \$625,000, while Murphy raised \$170,000 – all in chunks of about \$250. Both Roberts and Murphy are GOPers, with Roberts being the more moderate of the two. Roberts was NO on 22, while Murphy was YES – which is one reason why sources think he edged past Davis. Both are critical of the Padres baseball stadium deal and Roberts has been bashing away at the Charger deal for some time. Consultant John Kern ran Murphy's campaign, while Campaign Strategies and The Primacy Group worked on Roberts' campaign, along with Decision Research on polling...

■ ***Sacramento Mayor's Race*** – No changes in this tight contest. It will be Councilmembers Heather Fargo against

Rob Kerth in November. Fargo finished with 19,012 (21.7%) vs. 17,748 for Kerth (20.2%). Right now the odds lean toward Kerth. Although Councilman Robbie Waters (the only GOPer in the race) probably won't endorse, sources think his supporters, as well as supporters of attorney Joe Genshlea, lean toward Kerth. There was a report that Waters still had \$300,000 in his warchest, but that was only a line of credit – not hard cash. Truth was the Sacto BEE really did Waters in, pounding him on that old DUI. At the beginning of the year, Waters was ahead in the polls... Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **White House Politics** – Both GOP presidential frontrunner George W. Bush and Demo VP Al Gore have won their party's nomination. The candidates sowed up the nominations with *Super Tuesday II* wins in 6 southern States. Lots of talk now about running mates, especially on the Demo side. U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, the popular former governor of Indiana, is one name being floated. Another name making the rounds on the Demo side is U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi of S.F., former chair of the CA Demo Party and in the running for a top leadership spot in the U.S. House – should the Demo win in 2000...

■ **L.A. Co. DA's Race** – One day L.A.P.D. Chief Bernie Parks is blasting away at incumbent L.A. Co. DA Gil Garcetti, saying he will give all the evidence in the Rampart police corruption case to the U.S. Attorney, leaving the DA with *zilch* – the next day, after meeting with Mayor Richard Riordan, Parks is singing a different tune. In other words, after Garcetti's tough response, Parks blinked. Parks wants everything over ASAP, while Garcetti is building a conspiracy case which takes longer. Bottomline: Garcetti looks very reasonable in this battle with Parks. In terms of the election, newest figures from the L.A. Co. Registrar still have Chief Dep. DA Steve Cooley in first with 560,507 vs. 544,941 for Garcetti (as of 5 p.m. 3/14). Sources say that Garcetti's polling (by Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin) consistently showed him at 38% in a 3-way race – with no way to move up. And that's just about what Garcetti got – 38%. So that's why Garcetti held on to his big warchest and didn't spend very much in the Mar. 7th primary. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: Longtime Demo activist and fundraiser Manny Post died Mar. 13 after battling both heart disease and cancer. He was 82. R.I.P...

● Another sad note: radio/tv commentator and anchor Alex Dreier died Mar. 12. He was 83 and had worked for ABC, NBC, in L.A. at KTTV-Channel 11 and in Palm Springs at KESQ-TV. R.I.P...

● Gov. Davis has appointed Linda Griego and Cathy Unger as members of the Calif. Community College Board of Governors...

● Julia Justus McGinity, who was Gov. Wilson's appointment secretary, has joined Berkheimer/Clayton, an L.A. based executive search firm...

● Wayne Stumpfer, a prosecutor in the CA AG's office, has been named executive director of the FPPC, replacing Bob Tribe, who is retiring...

● Attorney Barry Liden has been hired by L.A.-based Rogers & Associates as a VP in the firm's p/a dept...

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